

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (Cancel)

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a wheel rim by bringing end faces of a workpiece into abutment against each other to form a hollow cylindrical body and forming a circumferential recess which is depressed from an outer circumferential wall of said hollow cylindrical body toward an inner circumferential wall thereof, said method comprising the steps of providing protrusions disposed near ends of a joined area of said hollow cylindrical body and extending in a joining direction, and then pressing said outer circumferential wall of said hollow cylindrical body having the protrusions to form said recess, such that the pressed hollow cylinder has substantially flush circumferential edges.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 7, wherein fingers are formed on respective corners of said workpiece and joined to form said protrusions.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 7, wherein said hollow cylindrical body is cut circumferentially to form said protrusions.

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Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 7, wherein abutting edges of said hollow cylindrical body are joined to each other by friction stir welding.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 7, wherein said recess is formed by a spinning process or a roll forming process.

Claims 12-16 (Cancel)